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Conflict-related sexual violence

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, which covers the period from January to December 2013, is submitted pursuant to paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 2106 (2013), in which the Council requested me to submit annual reports on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013) with regard to conflict-related sexual violence. The report presents information on parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The term "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men or children with a direct or indirect (temporal, geographical or causal) link to a conflict. This link to conflict may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator, the profile of the victim, the climate of impunity or State collapse, any cross-border dimensions or violations of the terms of a ceasefire agreement. While conflict-related sexual violence may be present in several contexts not mentioned in the current report, the following outlines those countries in which credible information is currently available, including situations of emerging concern.

2. The report highlights actions taken and challenges faced by States in conflict and post-conflict situations to protect women, men and children from such sexual violence; the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; the deployment of women's protection advisers; the work of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict; the efforts of the United Nations system; and recommendations to strengthen efforts to combat this egregious crime. In the report, appropriate actions are recommended and a list of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council is contained in the annex. The report should be read in conjunction with my previous reports on the same topic (A/66/657-S/2012/33 and A/67/792-S/2013/149). Preparation of the report involved consultations with the 13 United Nations entities that are members of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Nations field missions and country teams, concerned Member States and non-governmental organizations. United Nations peacekeeping and political missions, as well as country teams, were the primary

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sources of information. In the present report, reference is made to the nature and scope of sexual violence in 20 countries.

II. Current and emerging concerns regarding sexual violence as it relates to international peace and security

3. Sexual violence is almost universally underreported because of the risks faced by survivors and witnesses who come forward and by the humanitarian workers, human rights defenders, journalists and others to whom they speak. These risks include severe stigmatization, familial and social shunning and reprisals. In many contexts, the limited availability of services also hampers data gathering. Even where primary health care is available to survivors, staff may lack the capacity and the resources to provide holistic care, most notably psychosocial support and mental health services. In several contexts, service provision is limited also by access restrictions. In the absence of adequate and appropriate services, it is all the more difficult to have a comprehensive understanding of the scale, scope and character of conflict-related sexual violence.

4. Clearly, sexual violence is closely related to broader issues of insecurity and security-sector reform and to incomplete and/or flawed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. It is essential, therefore, to address conflict-related sexual violence explicitly in such processes and in the context of peace agreements and ceasefires, which often establish the parameters for security-sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts. The prevalence of sexual violence during periods of conflict often leaves lasting legacies, with acute consequences for the security of women and children in peacetime. This is demonstrated by the high levels of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against women and minors in some post-conflict settings. Ultimately, this has a direct bearing on the durability of peace and prospects for sustainable development. It is also evident that sexual violence perpetrated by demobilized actors and non-State armed groups is sometimes related to criminal activities such as the illicit extraction of resources and human trafficking and, in some cases, forms part of a strategy to control territory and access to resources. In such contexts, sexual violence is an effective tool of intimidation and social control.

5. In several of my reports I have highlighted the issue of sexual violence perpetrated in the context of conflict specifically as it relates to contested political processes. In some cases, female protesters specifically have been targeted, sometimes by organized groups or multiple perpetrators. In this regard, the Security Council has expressed grave concern regarding sexual violence crimes committed in the context of contested elections in Kenya in 2007 and Guinea in 2009. This issue requires continued vigilance by the Security Council, and further monitoring, analysis and preventive action, as appropriate.

6. During 2013, sexual violence was reported by displaced persons to have been a significant factor motivating their flight. During flight and while displaced, civilian populations continued to be vulnerable to sexual violence. In the context of prolonged and repeated displacement, effective mechanisms to prevent rape and other forms of sexual violence are often absent or limited. In some cases, the use of extreme violence, including honour killings, is related to sexual violence crimes. These risks not only lead to underreporting of sexual violence but to other harmful

practices, such as early and/or forced marriage. The settlement of allegations of rape of women and girls through informal or "traditional" justice arrangements often results in agreements between the perpetrator and the survivor's family or community that are detrimental to the survivor.

7. I have also previously highlighted the specific concern of sexual violence perpetrated against men and boys. Such incidents were again reported in 2013 but it remains difficult to determine their scale and scope and to respond accordingly. Challenges in this area include deep stigma, the failure of national legislation in many instances to recognize sexual violence against men and boys as a crime, the inadequacy of services specifically for male victims and the lack of access to legal services. In 2013, the Office of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, convened, together with the Government of the United States of America, a workshop of experts on sexual violence against men and boys, the key recommendations of which will inform the response of the United Nations system going forward.

8. Similarly, the issues of pregnancy as a result of sexual violence and of the plight of children born of rape require further research and information as a basis for response. In situations where conflict-related sexual violence takes the form of campaigns of forced pregnancy, and where abortion services are illegal, unsafe abortion practices may put the lives of survivors at greater risk. There are also the related risks of HIV transmission and limited access to HIV prophylaxis.

9. Access to justice for survivors can be hindered by physical restrictions, by inadequate legislation or by the financial and social costs associated with reporting and pursuing justice for crimes of sexual violence. A number of countries also lack the necessary national legislation or have failed to fully adopt and implement legislation that would offer improvements in terms of accountability and reparations for survivors. Many countries lack legal aid services or protocols for the protection of victims and witnesses. United Nations actors, including the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, continue to support national authorities in this regard.

10. At the global level, there is now unprecedented commitment and momentum. In its resolution 2106 (2013), the Security Council outlined for the first time a comprehensive approach and framework to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. In April 2013, the countries of the Group of Eight adopted the historic Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence. On the sidelines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, more than 140 Member States endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict at an event co-chaired by my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, William Hague, who continues to vigorously champion this cause (see A/68/633, annex). These are notable and important advances, but it is crucial that we now focus our collective efforts on converting these political commitments into concrete actions aimed at prevention and the provision of services on the ground.

A. Addressing sexual violence in conflict and information on parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence

11. The following information is based on cases recorded and documented by the United Nations system. As such, it is only indicative of the scope, scale and character of sexual violence committed against women, men and children.

Afghanistan

12. Between March and September 2013, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission indicated an increase of 25 per cent in violations against women, including an increase in reported incidents of sexual violence and forced marriage of women and girls. Furthermore, the Commission reported an increase in sexual violence against men and boys during 2013 and a pattern of sexual exploitation of children by commanders. Perpetrator profiles include police and military commanders, former warlords, tribal leaders and non-State armed groups. Armed groups operating in Takhar, Kunduz and Badakhshan are among those responsible for sexual violence against minors. The practice of *bacha bazi* (an illegal form of child prostitution and sexual slavery) is common among militia leaders and is understood to be prevalent in the northern and southern provinces. Members of both the national and local police have also been reported to be involved in this practice. Reporting of sexual violence against men and boys is severely limited but the United Nations has received reports of threats of sexual violence against men in detention. In addition, the Organization has noted that sexual violence is perpetrated and women are killed in Taliban-controlled areas as a method of curtailing the participation of women and girls in public life. Service provision remains extremely limited: there are only 19 women's centres in 34 provinces. There is a limited number of staff trained to treat survivors, a lack of female medical staff in rural areas and a lack of legal service provision in hospitals, while psychological services are unavailable even in urban hospitals. Most cases remain untreated owing to a combination of limited resources and insufficient coordination between the Government and civil society. In some instances, survivors reported being raped a second time by security forces while seeking protection.

Recommendation

13. I call on the Government to reinforce efforts to implement relevant legislation and, with the support of the United Nations and civil society, to establish the infrastructure necessary to systematically collect data and report on sexual violence, thereby creating a basis for a justice and service response.

Central African Republic

14. An already fragile security, human rights and humanitarian situation worsened during 2013, most notably with the attack on Bangui of 5 December by anti-balaka groups and elements of the former armed forces of the Central African Republic against ex-Séléka elements and the Transitional Government led by Michel Djotodia. At the end of the reporting period, human rights violations against civilians, rooted in sectarian conflict, had reached acute levels. At the request of my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding

Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), Babacar Gaye, my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, my Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and a representative from the office of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict travelled to Bangui and Bossangoa from 17 to 21 December 2013 after having carried out a joint technical-level assessment mission.

15. The delegation reported that numerous human rights violations had been committed and that there were clear indications that conflict-related sexual violence had been a main feature of attacks between March and December 2013. These crimes, which targeted civilian communities, were initially committed by ex-Séléka elements in acts described as "score settling". More recent events indicate that sexual violence was being committed as part of the sectarian violence, as reports of rape during house-to-house search operations conducted by anti-balaka elements and by ex-Séléka and other armed groups emerged. During the reporting period, allegations emerged of abductions and forced marriages by ex-Séléka officers in Bangui, Bouar and other areas affected by the conflict, with credible reports of girls being kept in military camps and becoming pregnant as a result of sexual slavery. The United Nations also received information that female politicians and female relatives of public officials have been raped, kidnapped and sometimes tortured. In mining areas such as Obo, Zemio, Rafai and Nzako, and in the city of Bria, women and children have also reportedly been kidnapped, raped and killed by the Lord's Resistance Army.

16. At least 146 pregnancies resulting from conflict-related sexual violence were recorded by United Nations partners during 2013. United Nations entities also noted an elevated risk of HIV infection and that, in the context of severe insecurity, civilians were less likely to risk travelling to seek assistance, contributing to high levels of miscarriage among women and girls and to untreated infections and disorders. The gender-based violence subcluster has developed a referral pathway, distributed post-exposure prophylaxis kits and trained service providers, mainly in camps for internally displaced persons. Few awareness-raising efforts have been carried out among vulnerable groups in the wake of the escalation of the violence, however, owing to funding and capacity constraints and the absence of an emergency preparedness plan. At present, medical and police authorities lack adequate training on caring for and protecting survivors of sexual violence, leaving women and girls vulnerable to stigmatization and reprisal. Survivors are also deterred from reporting because of the continuing presence of alleged perpetrators and the lack of a functional justice system. It is imperative that peacekeepers continue to be trained with a view to enhancing their capacity to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. In addition to building the capacity of BINUCA to monitor and report on human rights violations, including sexual violence, closer coordination between international actors is paramount. This should include the establishment of an integrated incident alert and coordinated response mechanism between the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, Operation Sangaris and BINUCA.

Recommendation

17. I urge the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic to ensure that efforts to restore security and the rule of law specifically take into account the prevention of crimes of sexual violence and that any eventual ceasefire or peace

agreement explicitly reflect sexual violence considerations, in line with the joint communiqué of the Government of the Central African Republic and the United Nations on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence of 12 December 2012.

Colombia

18. For the period 2012-2013, the General Attorney's Office reported on the investigation of 86 cases of sexual violence, involving 154 victims, perpetrated in the context of armed conflict. United Nations partners have reported that a range of violations and abuses were committed, including rape, gang rape, the recruitment of women, girls and boys by illegal armed groups for use as sexual slaves, forced pregnancy, forced abortion and forced prostitution. Other crimes reported in connection with sexual violence included kidnapping, threats of violence and assassinations. United Nations data on sexual and gender-based violence for 2013 indicate that women and girls of Afro-Colombian descent were disproportionately affected. In both 2012 and 2013, as many as 10 per cent of incidents reported by government sources related to sexual violence against men and boys.

19. The sexual exploitation of women and girls in areas under the influence of illegal armed groups or groups emerging after the demobilization of paramilitary organizations (under Law 975 of 2005, the "Justice and Peace Law") remains a grave concern. In this context, incidents indicate that sexual violence is perpetrated as a strategy to assert territorial control, to intimidate women leaders and human rights defenders and to intimidate the civilian population as a method of social control. Some survivors report having been displaced and raped repeatedly. Survivors reporting incidents of sexual violence to the authorities and service providers also reported receiving subsequent threats against them and their families, some of which resulted in forced displacement. The continuing presence of survivors and perpetrators in the same community represents an ongoing security risk, creates acute psychological trauma owing to prolonged intimidation and hinders reporting and access to justice and services. These trends are consistent with the acknowledgement by the Colombian Constitutional Court (in its judgement 092 of 2008) that sexual violence is a habitual, extensive, systematic and invisible practice in the context of the Colombian armed conflict, perpetrated by all of the illegal armed groups and, in isolated cases, by individual agents of the national armed forces.

20. With regard to the need for adequate and timely legal, medical and psychological attention for survivors, a draft bill outlining measures to guarantee the right of access to justice for survivors of sexual violence, particularly as it relates to the armed conflict, is under consideration by Congress. The approval, in November 2013, of guidelines for a public policy aimed at risk prevention and at protecting and guaranteeing the rights of women who are victims of armed conflict and that make specific reference to the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence is also a welcome development. Other positive developments include the elaboration by the Ministry of Defence of a protocol aimed at building the capacity of the public forces to prevent and respond to sexual violence, in particular with regard to the armed conflict. With regard to reparations, as at November 2013 the special administrative unit charged with providing support and reparation to victims had registered 3,525 survivors of sexual violence (2,902 of whom were female). To date, some 409 survivors have comprehensive reparation plans, including benefits for

their families. A collective reparations process is also under way in consultation with five women's organizations and a national programme for the protection of those in situations of extreme risk is being implemented. (See also para. 66 below, on the work of the Team of Experts in Colombia.)

Recommendation

21. I urge the Colombian authorities to ensure that legislative and policy developments, including the Colombian legal framework for peace, contribute to the fulfilment of survivors' rights to truth, justice and reparation for the full range of violations associated with conflict-related sexual violence. Furthermore, I call upon the Government of Colombia to continue and extend its collaboration with the United Nations, including the Team of Experts.

Côte d'Ivoire

22. Data on sexual and gender-based violence for 2013 indicate that high levels of sexual violence, particularly rape, continue to be committed. The United Nations has verified 381 cases between January and December, including 62 gang rapes. The slow progress being made in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, persistent insecurity caused by the presence of armed elements throughout the country and the climate of impunity contribute to a high-risk environment, particularly for women and children. Over 60 per cent of recorded rape survivors were children between the ages of 10 and 18 years; 25 per cent were children aged between 14 months and 10 years. At least 10 women and girls were killed after being raped or died from severe injuries sustained during the assault. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) notes that while instances of sexual violence were being recorded in the western part of the country, they are now being recorded in the north. In urban areas, the prevalence of small arms and light weapons is linked to insecurity: 63 cases of rape were reported during armed robberies.

23. A total of 24 incidents of sexual violence investigated by the United Nations in 2013 involved elements of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), the police, the gendarmerie or ex-combatants. An incident of particular concern involved the alleged rape of nine women by FRCI members during an eviction operation in the protected forest of Niégré. Although the commanders suspected of involvement are known, to date no one has been held accountable for those incidents. UNOCI notes a high level of impunity for security actors accused of committing crimes of sexual violence, often with the complicity of commanders. Since January 2013, of 15 rape allegations against security and defence forces brought to the attention of the military prosecutor of Abidjan and regional civilian courts, two cases have been tried under civilian jurisdiction, criminal charges were dropped in four cases, while nine investigations are still pending. To date, transitional justice arrangements have addressed none of the 54 incidents of sexual violence reported in connection with the post-election crisis in 2010 and 2011.

24. In terms of prevention, the limited implementation of disciplinary procedures, the absence of sanctions and a lack of awareness-raising activities on codes of conduct and ethics within national security institutions have presented major challenges. In September 2013, the Ministry of Defence supported an initiative of the Office of my Special Representative in partnership with the Kofi Annan

International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to conduct two training workshops for the Ivorian security forces. As a result, a pool of national trainers on conflict-related sexual violence was created to enhance the sustainability of capacity-building efforts. Through a national training programme on investigative techniques and gender-based violence for members of the police and the gendarmerie operating as judicial police officers, delivered by the Ministry of the Interior and supported by United Nations and international partners, a further 300 officers will be trained by June 2014. There have been some improvements in the capacity of actors to detect, prevent and plan responses to sexual violence, and several United Nations training sessions have been held for health personnel throughout the country. While referral mechanisms are in place, access to services continues to be a challenge nationwide.

25. The lack of a regularly functioning high court since 2001 poses a significant barrier to justice. Despite the efforts of national authorities, the prosecution rate remains low. Alleged perpetrators are often released owing to insufficient evidence and rape often continues to be reclassified as indecent assault, a lesser offence. The United Nations has verified 26 cases in which survivors opted to settle out of court as a result of social pressure, lengthy judicial procedures, lenient sentences and the cost of medical certificates. In June 2013, the Government adopted a national justice policy that envisages improvements with respect to service delivery, access to justice, legal documentation for vulnerable persons and a review of the legal framework on women's rights and protection. In August 2013, a national legal review aimed at reforming criminal and civil codes was initiated by the Ministry of Justice. Other initiatives are under way to review issues related to legal aid, victim and witness protection, and representation.

Recommendation

26. I urge the Government to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to prevent sexual violence and to improve access to justice and other services for survivors.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

27. During 2013 the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo recorded 15,352 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga and Ituri district). Also with reference to 2013, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) investigated and verified 860 cases of sexual violence committed by parties to the conflict, representing an increase of 13 per cent since my previous report on sexual violence in conflict. Non-State armed groups were involved in 71 per cent of cases verified by MONUSCO, while national security forces (mostly the national armed forces (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo — FARDC) and the national police) were responsible for 29 per cent of cases. This marks a change from my previous report, in which more than 50 per cent of cases were attributed to State actors. Because of the deteriorating security situation and the activities of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), North Kivu Province was most affected by conflict-related sexual violence during the reporting period.

28. Armed groups operating in conflict-affected areas effectively condone sexual violence through the encouragement of predatory behaviour. Furthermore, most armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, such as the Mai-Mai Cheka, the Raia Mutomboki, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain, as well as some FARDC elements, are involved to some degree in illicit activities, such as trafficking in conflict minerals and poaching, during which opponents and civilians are targeted, including through the use of sexual violence. The United Nations has also documented ethnically targeted attacks, including sexual violence perpetrated by Mai-Mai Cheka in the area of Pinga, mainly against Nande and Hutu groups. Mai-Mai Simba/Lumumba combatants were responsible for a large number of incidents of sexual violence, mostly involving the abduction of women and girls, looting and forced labour. It has been reported that 46 girls recruited and used by armed groups such as Mai-Mai Simba were used as sexual slaves. Of particular concern is the arrest of former sex slaves by government forces on suspicion of being collaborators of the armed groups that held them captive. For example, in Ituri district, 27 women released from captivity were arrested by FARDC because they were suspected of being Mai-Mai Morgan supporters. Problems of insecurity and access have impeded efforts to document and determine the magnitude of the phenomenon.

29. Almost half of the documented cases of sexual violence during 2013 were rapes of girls. In addition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recorded 525 incidents of forced marriage in areas affected by armed conflict. Sexual violence against men and boys was most often reported in Rutshuru territory (North Kivu), which was under M23 control for much of 2013. Also in North Kivu, sexual violence was particularly documented during displacement and around camps for internally displaced persons. With United Nations support, the Government has trained police officers working in areas where there are internally displaced persons to escort women and has created an alternative energy working group in North Kivu. In terms of service provision, geographic coverage is uneven and there are significant challenges to equipping remote health facilities, ensuring the adequate quality of the assistance and preventing attacks on facilities by parties to the conflict. In this environment, multisectoral assistance was provided to the 12 247 survivors identified by the United Nations and partners. Psychosocial assistance was provided to 78 per cent of the total (9,533 survivors, including 3,205 minors) within the framework of a programme for providing assistance to survivors of sexual violence. Capacity-building efforts have contributed to improvements in care during 2013, including with respect to HIV/AIDS.

30. Concerning access to justice for survivors, significant gaps exist in the implementation of the legal framework, owing in part to the State's absence in areas affected by armed conflict. In cases where justice is pursued and perpetrators are required to pay civil damages to survivors, insolvency and a lack of funding for legal assistance and reparations were often a problem. Nonetheless, during 2013, 61 members of the national defence and security forces were sentenced for sexual violence crimes, including 4 members of the national police force, 33 FARDC members of and 24 other State agents. On 16 May, the Prosecutor General of the armed forces issued international arrest warrants and extradition requests for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including sexual violence, to former M23 president Jean-Marie Runinga and M23 colonels Eric Badege, Innocent Zimurinda

and Baudouin Ngaruye, all of whom surrendered to Rwandan authorities in 2013. Regarding the Minova case, the operational military court of North Kivu Province held the first hearing in Goma on 20 November 2013. In total, 40 FARDC members, including five high-ranking officers, were accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including rape, murder and looting, committed in and around Minova between 20 November and 4 December 2012. (See also para. 89 below, on the support provided by the Team of Experts.)

31. My Special Representative and the Team of Experts visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March 2013. During that time, they met the President, the Prime Minister and other officials. The visit resulted in the adoption, on 30 March 2013, of a joint communiqué of the Government and the United Nations on combating conflict-related sexual violence. The Team of Experts has been assisting the Government to develop an implementation plan in line with the communiqué (see para. 89). In October 2013, my Special Representative and the Executive Director of UNFPA conducted a joint follow-up visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and met senior government officials, including the Prime Minister. My Special Representative held discussions with the Minister of Defence and addressed a special session of the Senate on sexual violence. On 23 October, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila, announced his intention to appoint a presidential representative on sexual violence and child recruitment to lead the Government's response and liaise with the international community. The President also emphasized zero tolerance for sexual violence, reiterated his continued commitment to fighting impunity for sexual violence and announced the Government's intention to create special chambers to prosecute alleged perpetrators of grave international crimes, including sexual violence. On 28 November, the Senate voted to create a special commission on conflict-related sexual violence.

Recommendation

32. I commend the Government for the recent commitments made and urge national authorities to implement, as a matter of priority, the measures outlined in the joint communiqué of 30 March 2013 and the subsequent implementation plan, and I encourage donors to support the Government in that regard. I also encourage the President to appoint a presidential representative to lead the Government's response, in accordance with his announcement.

Mali

33. During the reporting period, data collection on conflict-related sexual violence was affected by fear of reprisal, limited access to services and the fact that judicial institutions were still in the process of redeploying to the north of the country. During 2013, incidents of sexual violence were perpetrated by armed State and non-State actors, including during house searches, at checkpoints and in places of detention. Women and children, particularly internally displaced persons, reported sexual violence in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal regions. In June 2013, 28 displaced girls under 17 years of age were reported to have become victims of sexual exploitation and sexual slavery in Mopti, while women and girls displaced by the conflict also reported resorting to prostitution. Of the total number of reported cases of rape during 2013, 25 per cent included the rape of minors and more than one third were reportedly carried out by more than one perpetrator. The majority of

survivors were women and girls from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

34. With respect to non-State armed actors, several incidents of gang rape by unidentified armed elements were reported in Timbuktu. At least four incidents involving the abduction and gang rape of girls by rebel groups, including Ansar Dine, have been verified by United Nations partners. Some of those cases resulted in pregnancies and associated risks of stigma and abandonment. Other reported incidents include the rape for the purpose of reprisal of a girl by elements of the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) and the rape of a woman in Kidal by members of the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad, reportedly for "not supporting the independence of Azawad". A number of allegations of sexual violence involving the Malian defence and security forces were reported during 2013, including allegations of abductions and rape. A military judicial process is under way for members of the defence and security forces alleged to have committed rape during the recapture of Gao, many of whose inhabitants were suspected of collaborating with MUJAO. There is concern, however, regarding accountability for sexual violence crimes, as only seven survivors of such violence pursued legal action during the reporting period and as alternative conflict resolution mechanisms continued to be used.

35. Efforts have been made by the Government, the United Nations and partners to build the capacity of the Malian defence and security forces and other Malian civilian and security entities. As part of the European Union Training Mission in Mali, 2,100 troops belonging to the Malian defence and security forces received training on the protection of women in situations of armed conflict. In January 2013, the Ministry of Justice of Mali, supported by the United Nations, trained 45 judges and judicial officers on conflict-related sexual violence and on the procedures required to bring perpetrators to justice, on HIV/AIDS and on international humanitarian law. The United Nations, together with partners, has also implemented projects for the prevention of sexual violence and the collection and management of data. Messages on prevention and referral to counselling services were broadcast. The Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family equipped centres for women and children in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti, Segou, Kayes and Koulikouro to accommodate female survivors and provide psychosocial services; a similar space was established in Bamako. Only a limited number of humanitarian actors, however, have the resources and technical expertise to provide comprehensive services to survivors.

Recommendation

36. I urge the Government, with the support of the United Nations and its partners, to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to address sexual violence that includes the provision of services for survivors, strengthening monitoring and reporting and addressing impunity.

Myanmar

37. Incidents of sexual violence continued to be reported in Myanmar during 2013. Reporting is limited because of access restrictions for humanitarian and human rights actors in conflict-affected areas and because formal reporting protocols discourage many survivors from seeking assistance for fear of police involvement,

negative repercussions, compromised confidentiality and stigma. Sexual violence has nonetheless been associated with targeted violence in Rakhine State and in non-State ethnic armed conflicts in Kachin State and northern Shan State. In these states, overcrowding in camps and shelters for internally displaced persons raises the risk of sexual violence and abuse, particularly for single females and female-headed households. Conflict-affected women and girls in camps for internally displaced persons are also at risk of being trafficked, often by so-called "brokers", to neighbouring countries for the purposes of forced marriage and sexual exploitation. Regional and local government offices have limited capacity to lead, manage and coordinate emergency programming. Local non-governmental organizations are able to access communities of internally displaced persons but generally lack the capacity to deliver health-care and psychosocial support services consistent with international standards. A lack of access to formal justice mechanisms for rape survivors often results in the mediation of sexual violence cases by camp leaders.

38. In Kachin State, assessments carried out in February and March 2013 found that women and girls were at risk in both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas. Also in Kachin State, since September 2013 there have been increased reports of sexual violence, including the rape of girls as young as 7 years of age, incidents involving multiple perpetrators and the involvement of armed actors and uniformed services. In northern Rakhine State, ongoing tensions between host communities and internally displaced persons and related threats against humanitarian actors have compromised service provision outside camps for internally displaced persons. Psychosocial counselling and medical services in northern Rakhine State are extremely limited and local state-run structures are often unwilling to provide services to internally displaced Muslims. To gain access to urgent health services, the Rohingya population is limited to a hospital in Sittwe, which has minimal capacity for sexual violence case management and to which humanitarian actors do not have access. Access to justice is also limited for those unable to prove their citizenship.

39. In his report of 23 September 2013 (A/68/397), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar stated that, with respect to abuses perpetrated in Rakhine State, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, the obligations of the State to fully investigate and hold perpetrators to account had not been met. The Special Rapporteur recommended the amendment of constitutional provisions to provide better accountability and civilian oversight over military tribunals. In respect of the findings in the report of the Special Rapporteur, the Government of Myanmar cites the prosecution of suspects in six cases of sexual violence committed by military personnel or deserters in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States through military and civilian courts. The Government notes that it has undertaken capacity-building efforts for the armed forces, including on human rights and the prevention of sexual violence. It also highlights the signature of ceasefire agreements with most ethnic groups and the expected signature of a nationwide ceasefire agreement.

Recommendation

40. I call on the Government of Myanmar to fully investigate and respond to current and historical human rights violations and abuses, including crimes of sexual violence. I urge the Government, with the support of the United Nations and its

partners, to work to develop a comprehensive protection and service response for survivors.

Somalia

41. During the reporting period, sexual violence, including rape, remained one of the most serious and recurrent human rights violations in Somalia. Data for 2013 concerning Banadir, Shabelle Dhexe and Juba Dhexe indicate that survivors reported armed men in uniform as the primary perpetrators, including members of the Somali National Army, Al-Shabaab, militias, private actors and organized crime units. The most commonly reported form of sexual violence was rape. Internally displaced persons were particularly vulnerable, often owing to the fact that they have no clan mechanisms to protect and support them. Women from minority clans too were vulnerable. In camps for internally displaced persons, conditions are often unsafe for women and girls because of the proliferation of arms, scarce lighting and limited policing. Continued displacement, including as a result of the forced eviction that took place during 2013 in the Mogadishu area, has increased their vulnerability. In areas of Somalia that are outside the control of the federal Government there have been reports of forced marriage and sexual slavery. Therefore, dialogue with de facto authorities to gain specific commitments and prevention measures is also required.

42. The handling by the federal authorities of several emblematic rape cases reported during 2013 raised serious concerns with respect to due process, freedom of expression, adherence to safe and ethical standards for interviewing survivors of sexual violence crimes and the protection of survivors and journalists who report such crimes. It is therefore welcome that, on 4 December 2013, at an open-day event on women, peace and security, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, made a commitment to address the issues of investigations and access to services, promising that no more alleged rape victims would be imprisoned and that a specialized crime unit and dedicated clinic would be created to deal with cases of sexual violence. The United Nations and its partners have trained approximately 12,000 police officers on human rights. In addition, concerted efforts have been made to recruit more female police officers; those officers now require support to take substantive and active roles within the police force.

43. Following a visit by my Special Representative in April 2013, a joint communiqué of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the United Nations on preventing sexual violence in conflict was signed by the President of Somalia and the Deputy Secretary-General at the international conference on Somalia held in London on 7 May 2013. In December 2013, the Team of Experts undertook a technical mission to develop an implementation plan focused on accountability and service provision (see para. 91 below).

Recommendation

44. I encourage the continued collaboration between the Federal Government of Somalia and the United Nations to implement the commitments made, including in the joint communiqué of 7 May 2013 and the subsequent implementation plan, as well as the commitment made, as part of the Somali Compact, to zero tolerance on

gender-based violence. I urge donors to provide the required technical and financial support to the Federal Government in this regard.

South Sudan

45. Since 15 December 2013, heavy fighting has affected the civilian population in South Sudan, most notably in Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States. In its interim report on the human rights crisis in South Sudan of 21 February 2014, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) indicated that information available at the time of writing the report suggested that sexual violence was a consistent characteristic of the crisis in all affected states and that there were sectarian dimensions to the conflict, including the deliberate and ethnically based targeting of and reprisal against Dinka and Nuer populations. In addition to having targeted foreign women, perpetrators of opportunistic acts of sexual violence could also have victimized other ethnic groups. In the report, UNMISS noted that alleged perpetrators of sexual violence such as rape, gang rape, forced abortion and sexual harassment include members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the South Sudan national police service and opposition forces. Although reported incidents are still being investigated, I am concerned that the information to date suggests that violations are being committed by all the parties to the conflict.

46. Prior to 15 December, UNMISS had registered 73 credible allegations of conflict-related sexual violence. Of the 73 cases, 42 were abductions, of which at least 3 resulted in forced marriage. Rape was reported in 22 of the incidents and other violations reported included 3 gang rapes, forced abortion and sexual humiliation. Five verified incidents of the rape of minors by members of SPLA were reported by child protection actors. SPLA members were allegedly responsible for 21 of the 73 incidents; 1 incident was reportedly perpetrated by a state official together with police and military police officers. A total of 47 incidents were reportedly perpetrated by unnamed armed individuals or groups. The Lord's Resistance Army was alleged to be responsible for 4 of the recorded incidents.

47. The majority of the incidents reported prior to 15 December occurred in the context of cross-border incursions and military operations in Jonglei State between SPLA and the armed group led by David Yau Yau. Several incidents of rape by SPLA members in Jonglei were reported, including the alleged rape of a Murle minor by an SPLA officer during food distribution. One incident of concern involved the abduction of 32 women who were reportedly forced to walk naked from their village to a military barracks and were "assigned" to soldiers and militia members. Their return was facilitated by governmental, civil society and United Nations actors, but to date no medical, legal or psychosocial service has been provided to the victims. Of the limited services available to survivors of sexual violence, the majority are concentrated in Juba. Efforts are being made to establish special police units, safe spaces and medical services for survivors in state capitals such as Bor (Jonglei State) and humanitarian actors have provided services to survivors in some conflict-affected areas of Jonglei. The conflict that erupted on 15 December, however, has severely hampered the already limited access to medical care.

48. There are significant barriers to justice and redress that deter survivors of sexual violence from seeking assistance, while gaps in legislation hamper the overall response. Survivors risk arrest and detention when reporting sexual violence

crimes. During 2013, legislation was passed to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, reaffirming the State's obligations to protect human rights, including by preventing conflict-related sexual violence. Before the December 2013 crisis, SPLA had made efforts with respect to accountability, exemplified by eight verdicts against SPLA soldiers and officers for rape. Also prior to 15 December, UNMISS conducted 42 training sessions to raise awareness about conflict-related sexual violence, including for SPLA and the national police. UNMISS women protection advisers led a legislative review task force that recommended, among other things, that the definition of rape in the Penal Code Act (2008) be revised, and that revisions be made to the Local Government Act, to remove provisions that grant the customary justice system jurisdiction over women and children's rights.

Recommendation

49. In relation to the post-15 December outbreak of conflict, I urge the parties to live up to the commitments they made in the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January to refrain from attacking civilians, including by committing acts of rape or sexual abuse, and to ensure accountability for sexual violence crimes. I welcome the steps taken to establish the commission of inquiry mandated by the African Union and underscore the important role of such a commission in investigating human rights violations and other abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence, during the recent conflict. I also urge the Government, with the support of the United Nations and the international community, to pursue the legislative reforms and the capacity-building efforts of the security and justice sectors necessary to comprehensively address sexual violence.

Sudan (Darfur)

50. During 2013, in the context of persistent and widespread insecurity, reports of conflict-related sexual violence in Darfur increased. Access by UNAMID to areas of ongoing military operations remained severely limited in part because of security constraints and restrictions imposed by government officials. Therefore, it is believed that the 149 cases verified during the reporting period reflect significant underreporting of conflict-related sexual violence. Internally displaced women and girls were particularly vulnerable and the majority of reported survivors were residents of camps for internally displaced persons who were attacked either outside camp perimeters while engaging in routine livelihood activities or inside camps. The proliferation of small arms in such camps and settlements, as well as in towns and villages, and an apparent increase in banditry, were exacerbating factors. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable during cultivation and harvest seasons (between June and November) and in the context of clashes between nomads and farming communities over land.

51. Sexual violence was also reported in the context of armed clashes, particularly following armed operations, while victims were isolated from their communities and in the process of resettling. Examples include abuses committed in the context of tribal clashes connected with gold mining in Jebel Amir, northern Darfur; abuses perpetrated by the Sudanese armed forces and its allied militias in southern and eastern Darfur; and abuses committed following clashes between the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi faction in eastern

Darfur. The profiles of alleged perpetrators of sexual violence include unidentified armed Arab nomads, armed men in military uniforms and members of the government security apparatus, as well as internally displaced persons. In 20 per cent of cases, victims identified members of the forces of the Government of the Sudan as their attackers; specifically, they said the attackers were members of the Sudanese armed forces, the National Intelligence and Security Services, the government police forces and their affiliates (the Central Reserve Police, the Border Intelligence Guards and the Popular Defence Force). One member of the Liberation and Justice Movement was identified as a perpetrator. Government-affiliated militia members were also alleged to be perpetrators, but it should be noted that these forces frequently operate in the absence of direct government control.

52. It is difficult for survivors to identify perpetrators given the wide range of armed and uniformed actors in Darfur. Where identification is possible, prosecutions through the formal justice system proceed slowly. That said, the Government is pursuing, through the judicial process, allegations against several members of its armed forces. Access restrictions faced by all United Nations actors have also resulted in the placement of severe limitations on the provision of assistance to survivors. Owing to stigma and for fear of repercussions, survivors of rape do not always list sexual violence as an aspect of a crime committed against them when accessing medical treatment, which is an evidentiary requirement for judicial proceedings. Therefore, there is concern that the reporting protocols, particularly the use of a document known as "form 8", present obstacles to the treatment of sexual violence survivors rather than facilitating investigations. Furthermore, rape victims often run the risk of being charged with the offense of adultery (*zinna*), and a reference to adultery is made in the definition of rape provided by article 149 of the Criminal Act 1991. The Act does not contain provisions on command responsibility. During 2013, UNAMID received a number of reports of pregnancy as a result of rape. Survivors have reported revictimization, some by being accused of unlawful pregnancy and one by being accused of having murdered the child. The protection of women with children born as a result of rape, as well as the well-being of such children, is a significant concern.

53. The United Nations continued to engage in advocacy, training and capacity-building measures directed at armed actors, law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary and government officials. In addition to efforts to support formal protection measures, community-level protection mechanisms continued to be implemented, such as women moving in large groups for farming, firewood, water or grass collection, daily security patrols and security meetings in camps for internally displaced persons with the support of the United Nations police. During 2013, the UNAMID police force also continued to train community policing volunteers on handling sexual violence survivors, particularly rape victims, interviewing skills and referral pathways. The women's police networks established for Sudanese women also continued to provide a platform for internally displaced women to highlight their security concerns and request action from authorities. Similarly, the women's protection networks established in the camps for internally displaced persons in northern Darfur continued to identify protection issues specific to women in order to inform prevention and response strategies by different actors, including the government of Northern Darfur State, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations working on protection issues.

Recommendation

54. I urge the Government of the Sudan to facilitate access by the United Nations and partners to conflict-affected areas so that they may provide services and carry out monitoring activities. I also encourage the Government to reform national legislation in relation to sexual violence crimes and revise reporting protocols. I encourage the Government to engage with my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to develop a framework of cooperation to address conflict-related sexual violence.

Syrian Arab Republic

55. Fear of reprisal, social stigmatization and a lack of safe and confidential response services for survivors have severely limited reporting on sexual violence in the context of the Syrian conflict. Information gathered from displaced civilians outside the Syrian Arab Republic and reported by the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic indicates that sexual violence has been a persistent feature of the conflict and that the fear of rape has served as a driving motivation for families fleeing the violence (see A/HRC/23/58, para. 91). It has been difficult, however, for the United Nations to verify allegations within the Syrian Arab Republic, largely owing to a lack of access and considerations related to the safety of survivors. Similarly, assessments of the scale and the scope of sexual violence are limited. The United Nations in the Syrian Arab Republic reports that it has provided information and held awareness-raising sessions on protection issues, including sexual and gender-based violence, psychosocial support and first aid to over 38,000 women in connection with the crisis during 2013.

56. The commission of inquiry has reported that government forces and pro-government militias have used sexual violence, including rape, in detention centres and prisons throughout the country, often as part of interrogations by intelligence services (see A/HRC/23/58, para. 92). Former detainees have provided United Nations partners with accounts of sexual harassment and the abuse of women, men and children in overnight detention facilities. The accounts included descriptions of detainees being stripped of their clothes and receiving threats that they or their relatives would be raped, as a tool to intimidate those perceived of being associated with the opposition. The United Nations has also received allegations of rape, including gang rape and other forms of sexual violence, against women and girls, including in the presence of relatives, by government forces at checkpoints, during incursions and during searches of houses of families perceived to be pro-opposition. (See also my report on children and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (S/2014/31.))

57. With respect to allegations against armed opposition groups, credible information has been provided to the United Nations in Homs, Damascus and Rif Damascus of sexual violence perpetrated against young women and girls in shelters and in some opposition areas. Furthermore, the commission of inquiry has reported accounts of women being segregated during house searches in the city of Aleppo during joint operations by armed groups, with an implication of possible sexual violence (A/HRC/23/58, para. 94). Also in relation to armed opposition groups, the Commission found that, during the assault in Yarmouk, the war crime of sexual violence was committed (A/HRC/23/58, para. 95). Reports of the curtailment of women's participation in public life in some areas where armed opposition groups

operate are of concern. I am also deeply concerned by the prevailing climate of impunity for sexual violence crimes by all parties.

58. The Government refutes the assertions of the commission of inquiry and has expressed particular concern regarding media reports during 2013 on "sexual jihad" or "marriage jihad". The Government regrets that United Nations actors operating in the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan have not yet been able to verify such reports. The Government has also reported that women have been abducted and raped, sometimes on a sectarian basis, and that, while some of those victims are released in exchange for ransom, others are reportedly passed on to other armed elements and revictimized. The Government notes that intimidation, killings and incidents of sexual violence against women, including rape, gang rape and sexual slavery, have occurred in Homs, Damascus, Idlib, Dara'a and Raqqa, among other places. The United Nations has been unable to verify this information.

59. To date, some 6.5 million individuals are displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic, while over 2 million have been displaced to Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, as well as to Iraq, Egypt and other parts of North Africa. The vulnerability to sexual violence and sexual exploitation of those displaced is among the most acute concerns of those responding to the humanitarian crisis. In Jordan, as at 31 December 2013, 576,354 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR, with approximately one quarter of that total residing in camps and the remainder in urban and rural settings. Women and girls represent the majority of the registered refugee population. Refugee women inside and outside camps report restricted movement owing to perceived security risks, as well as for cultural reasons. Most Syrians in Jordan have limited or no income, placing them at risk of exploitation and abuse, and leading some to resort to prostitution. While early marriage was already a practice in rural parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, there are concerns that the number of early marriages may have increased as a result of displacement, out of economic necessity and because of the perceived need to protect young women. Forced marriage, particularly of single women and widows, has also been reported as a form of reparation for women, especially when they have been victims of rape. The risk of exposure to prostitution, including as a means to pay rent or gain access to services, is also severe. Similar patterns of risk and vulnerability are reported in Lebanon, where over 800,000 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR, and in other receiving countries. The situation for those displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic is also dire.

Recommendation

60. I call upon all parties to the conflict to immediately issue command orders prohibiting sexual violence and to hold perpetrators in their ranks accountable, in accordance with the prevention measures specified in paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2106 (2013). I urge the parties to ensure that any ceasefire and eventual peace agreement contains explicit provisions with respect to conflict-related sexual violence, and I reiterate the call on all parties to allow unfettered access by United Nations actors and humanitarian partners for monitoring and the delivery of aid and services to vulnerable populations.

Yemen

61. Consistent with my previous report on sexual violence in conflict, there continue to be concerns in Yemen regarding the link between the presence of armed groups and an increase in rates of early and forced marriage and consequent sexual slavery and abuse among the poorest and most vulnerable girls in society. In my previous report, I noted that armed groups linked to Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula paid a bride price reportedly as high as $5,000. Such reports were noted in Abyan governorate as a result of the conflict in 2011 and 2012. Improved access to Abyan during 2013 allowed child protection partners to verify historical reports of the forcible recruitment and sexual abuse of boys by members of Ansar al-Sharia. Similar reports in connection with the Popular Committee in Abyan are of concern, particularly as the popular committees in many locations throughout the country have begun to fill a security vacuum caused by the absence of police and judicial authorities. United Nations partners report that the rape of returnee women and girls, in some cases resulting in pregnancy, was the most reported violation. A rise in child abduction and in the sexual abuse of young girls during 2013 was also reported, affecting girls' access to education. Few medical professionals in Yemen are trained to provide support to survivors of sexual violence or to collect and store evidence, and there are no national guidelines on the clinical management of rape. Protection and response to conflict-related sexual violence is further complicated by the lack of a clear legal definition of sexual violence in line with international standards, as well as an absence of a legal age for marriage under national legislation, or legal provisions related to war crimes or crimes against humanity. Furthermore, the codification of rape as adultery in Yemeni legislation offers protection to perpetrators at the expense of survivors.

Recommendation

62. I acknowledge the efforts that continue to be made to revise the legal age of marriage under national law and urge Yemeni authorities, with the support of the United Nations, to undertake comprehensive legislative reform as a basis for addressing impunity for sexual violence crimes and ensuring services for survivors.

B. Addressing conflict-related sexual violence crimes in post-conflict situations

Angola

63. Following the deployment of a United Nations protection adviser on expulsions, in 2013 positive developments occurred with regard to the implementation of the joint communiqué addressing sexual violence signed between the United Nations and the Government of Angola in March 2011. A series of agreements between the Angolan province of Lunda Norte and border provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo triggered the voluntary return of at least 70,000 migrants to the Democratic Republic of the Congo between May and June 2013 and made it possible to have a system of transborder trade and the opening of some border posts. The Government also granted United Nations partners access so that they could observe population movements and visit detention facilities in the border areas. Various capacity-building activities, including training for relevant

State actors, may have contributed to a reported reduction in incidents of sexual violence.

Recommendation

64. I encourage the further strengthening of cooperation between the Government and United Nations actors in the implementation of the joint communiqué, and continued monitoring and reporting by the Government in that regard.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

65. My Special Representative conducted a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2013, to review ongoing efforts by national authorities and civil society at all levels to address conflict-related sexual violence. It was found that serious challenges remain in terms of service provision and access to justice for an estimated 20,000 survivors of sexual violence crimes committed during the conflict that took place from 1992 to 1995. Despite recognition of the widespread and systematic use of sexual violence during the war, the stigma remains and many survivors are reluctant to come forward. This is partly due to the fact that many of the alleged perpetrators are in positions of influence within State institutions such as the police, as well as in the political sphere. Constitutional barriers also remain, resulting in the fragmentation of the Government's prevention and response efforts. This is compounded by an apparent lack of political will on the part of the authorities at different levels. In terms of national prosecutions of war crimes, of an estimated 200 cases processed by the State since the end of the conflict, to date only 29 cases involving charges of sexual violence have led to sentencing.

66. There is a lack of comprehensive services for survivors, with non-governmental organizations in this area offering mainly psychosocial support, with limited geographical coverage. At the end of 2013, initiatives to establish a system of referral for comprehensive services were at an early stage. Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of developing a second action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), for 2014-2017, with important provisions for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Implementing the draft programme of assistance to women victims of wartime rape, sexual violence and torture (2013-2016) would also be beneficial. In some areas, there have been some training initiatives for key victim support institutions and organizations that have led to improved assistance to survivors and witnesses before, during and after criminal prosecutions. Similar training for judges and prosecutors is needed. Despite the fact that hundreds of Bosnian men are believed to have been victims of wartime rapes and sexual abuse, only three non-governmental organizations with limited resources provide dedicated psychological services to male survivors and the status of male survivors has not been properly regulated under the law. Moreover, the paucity of data on the number of children born as a result of rape requires urgent attention by service providers and researchers in order for the needs of these young people to be addressed.

Recommendation

67. I urge the Government to prioritize the development and passage of harmonized legislation and policies in all relevant national institutions to facilitate cooperation, the effective exchange of information and the establishment of referral

mechanisms to ensure comprehensive and multisectoral services for survivors of sexual violence. I encourage the Government to draw on the expertise of the United Nations and civil society in that regard.

Cambodia

68. Since my previous report on sexual violence in conflict, no governmental system has been put in place to respond to my recommendation that the effective prosecution of perpetrators be pursued. The introduction of vetting processes to exclude those who have perpetrated or are otherwise responsible for acts of sexual violence from the security sector are also a priority area for action at the national level.

Recommendation

69. I reiterate my call to the Government to respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence and to address impunity for such crimes, and assure national authorities of the support of the United Nations in that regard.

Liberia

70. The availability of reliable data on sexual violence remains a critical challenge, but reports indicate that 2013 has seen an overall increase in the number of reported sexual violence crimes. The increase could be attributed to positive efforts by national stakeholders and the United Nations system to raise awareness and enable reporting. Data from the Ministry of Gender and Development for 2013 indicate an increase in the number of cases of sexual violence against children aged 6-14 years (as at November 2013, 90 per cent of the 1,175 cases of sexual and gender-based violence seen by four "one-stop facilities" in Montserrado county involved children). At least 10 children died as a direct result of rape. Given the high number of underage victims, a child-centred approach to prevention is crucial. Also crucial is the adoption of a comprehensive national approach to prevention in order to ensure service coverage throughout Liberia, not only in Monrovia, where most of the services are concentrated. The first medical forensic laboratory for Liberia, which was launched on 16 August 2013 in Monrovia, will contribute to enhancing evidence-gathering capabilities so as to facilitate the prosecution of suspects in rape cases. With the support of civil society, the United Nations and other international partners, the Government has continued to conduct awareness-raising campaigns and activities, particularly to address rape. An evaluation of the joint programme of the United Nations and the Government of Liberia on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence undertaken in April 2013 highlighted the need to further strengthen legal responses and improve coordination among service providers, to strengthen community ownership through the decentralized implementation of the joint programme and to increase the engagement of men in activities to combat conflict-related sexual violence, with a focus on prevention and an emphasis on attitudinal and behavioural change.

Recommendation

71. I urge the Government, with the support of the United Nations, to put in place a comprehensive prevention strategy that includes more systematic monitoring, analysis and reporting as a basis for response at all levels, while maintaining the

emphasis on multisectoral service provision for survivors. Addressing impunity continues to be critical for deterrence and, ultimately, for the prevention of sexual violence crimes.

Libya

72. I welcome the recent adoption by the interim Government of Libya of a decree addressing the situation of individuals who became victims of sexual violence during the events of 2011. This is a positive step towards providing reparations and physical and psychological health care for survivors, establishing shelters, a legal instrument to grant children born of rape legal status, and legal aid for survivors to seek accountability. To date, civil society organizations have developed advocacy and programmatic responses for survivors of sexual violence perpetrated during 2011, for example by providing psychological support. The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, however, require support to provide comprehensive multisectoral services. Support is also necessary for the recruitment and training of police, including judicial police, and for legal advocacy groups and other civil society organizations. Continuing risks of sexual violence relate to the ongoing reform of the Libyan security sector, which is taking place in the context of weak security institutions and the proliferation of arms. In October 2013, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya reported that sexual violence was used in 2012 and 2013 as an element of torture in detention and was perpetrated largely against men in detention facilities operated by armed brigades. Noting that the General National Congress has adopted legislation criminalizing torture, enforced disappearance and discrimination, the prevention of sexual violence in the security sector is an area for continued attention.

Recommendation

73. I urge the Government to ensure adequate financial, administrative and human resources for a comprehensive protection and service response, to strengthen national institutions, and for the implementation of comprehensive legislation on reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

Nepal

74. Since my previous report on sexual violence in conflict, there has been little progress in pursuing justice for survivors of sexual violence perpetrated during the internal conflict. Institutional reforms that would prevent the promotion of individuals accused of involvement in human rights violations, including sexual violence, to the senior ranks of the security forces have not been undertaken. Furthermore, no prosecutions of gross violations of human rights, including sexual violence, committed up until the end of the war in 2006 have progressed through the courts, despite many victims having filed cases with the police. Moreover, survivors cannot access comprehensive services or receive redress. Victims of sexual violence perpetrated during the conflict are not recognized as conflict-affected persons and therefore cannot benefit from the interim relief programme. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has committed itself, however, to providing interim relief and has initiated consultations with relevant stakeholders. During 2013, concerns were raised regarding the passage of a presidential ordinance that would establish a truth and reconciliation commission not in compliance with international standards. On 2 January 2014 the Supreme Court ruled that the provisions of the ordinance

concerning amnesty, prosecution and the filing of cases against perpetrators contravened fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution of Nepal, the national justice system and international standards. The decision also provided guidance on the establishment of the truth and reconciliation commission, including the need for guarantees of autonomy and impartiality and of protection for victims and witnesses. The Government notes its response to reports of sexual violence citing existing legislation, policy and programmes, including the comprehensive peace agreement, the policy on internally displaced persons and the response to gender-based violence through district-level service centres.

Recommendation

75. I urge the Government to fully implement the decision of the Supreme Court of Nepal of 2 January 2014 as a priority and to ensure that victims of sexual violence are recognized under the law as conflict-affected persons, in order that they may access services and benefits.

Sierra Leone

76. In Sierra Leone, significant levels of rape and other sexual violence crimes are a legacy of the decade-long civil war. Sexual and gender-based violence were also a feature of the conflict. To address this reality, 43 family support units, to which sexual violence can be reported, have been established within the Sierra Leone police service. Although conviction rates in 2013 improved in comparison with 2012, access to the family support units is limited for a large proportion of the population, and local chiefs often adjudicate cases of sexual violence through out-of-court settlements and marriages between the perpetrator and the victim, including in cases where the survivor is under the legal age of consent. Data received from the Reparations Directorate of the National Commission for Social Action indicate that 3,602 of the 32,110 registered war victims are survivors of sexual violence, although unregistered numbers are believed to be higher. Through a programme of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the National Commission for Social Action, funding is provided to train female survivors of sexual violence and support them to establish businesses. As many as 2,952 beneficiaries, however, have not participated in the programme owing to a shortfall in funding.

Recommendation

77. I urge the Government and international partners to ensure that there is adequate funding for ongoing programmes to benefit survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, including training and livelihood schemes. I also acknowledge the pilot programme that was recently facilitated by the Office of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to share experience gained in Sierra Leone with neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and to encourage further such South-South cooperation initiatives.

Sri Lanka

78. In my previous report on sexual violence in conflict, I noted that the action plan launched in August 2012 to respond to the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry on Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation included no action

directly providing redress for those affected by sexual violence during the conflict. During 2013, the Government of Sri Lanka committed itself to incorporating more of the Commission's recommendations into the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. In total, 145 of some 285 recommendations, some of which focused on the security of women and children, were incorporated. In my previous report I also noted the continued vulnerability of women and children in areas formerly affected by conflict, partly due to the continued militarization of those areas. These issues remained pertinent during 2013, as women and girls, especially in female-headed households, continued to be vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse, including at the hands of military personnel (A/HRC/25/23). The Government reports that the military has taken strict action in such cases. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, however, continued to voice concerns in 2013 with regard to accountability in Sri Lanka, stating that the Government has taken limited and piecemeal steps towards investigating serious allegations of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and none of these have had the independence or credibility required (see A/HRC/25/23, para. 36). Efforts to investigate such allegations fully and to bring justice to victims of the civil conflict, including those reporting sexual violence crimes, thus remain a priority.

Recommendation

79. In the context of dialogue on the establishment of a comprehensive truth and reconciliation commission, I urge the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that such a transitional justice mechanism explicitly seek accountability for sexual violence crimes and that national authorities put in place the necessary services, remedies and reparations for survivors.

III. Work of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence, including information on progress made in the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1960 (2010)

80. In 2013, United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, an inter-agency network chaired by my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, supported the delivery of scenario-based training for peacekeepers in several training centres, to improve their operational readiness to react swiftly to sexual violence. To help enhance prevention capabilities in mission settings, United Nations Action also rolled out a framework of early-warning indicators of conflict-related sexual violence through the United Nations missions in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and South Sudan (UNMISS). In Côte d'Ivoire, progress was made in the development of a joint Government-United Nations comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence. An inter-agency team visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to discuss the transfer of coordination tasks under the comprehensive national strategy, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2098 (2013). In addition, United Nations Action has produced a number of tools to improve practice in the field,

including a guidance note on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence and policy briefs on psychosocial and mental health interventions.

81. Technical support at the country level was provided for the continued roll-out of the Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements, including through the training of envoys, mediators and mediation experts. After the roll-out, the number of ceasefire agreements that included provisions on conflict-related sexual violence more than doubled. Among the agreements with such provisions were: the declaration of principles signed on 11 January 2013 in the Central African Republic; the ceasefire agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement signed on 6 April 2013 on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur; the Preliminary Agreement to the Presidential Election and the Inclusive Peace Talks in Mali, signed on 18 June 2013; and the declaration of commitments by M23 signed at the conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue, on 12 December 2013. The increase in ceasefire agreements with conflict-related sexual violence provisions underlines the importance of continued cooperation between actors in international peacemaking and of continued exchange of knowledge and expertise on how to address the inclusion of such provisions in ceasefire and peace agreements and ensure their effective implementation.

82. In 2013, an independent five-year review of United Nations Action was published. The review found the network to be an effective mechanism in providing a global platform for advocacy, accountability and coordination, while noting the need for continued dissemination of guidance and training tools and for enhanced country-level action. All of these activities are supported by voluntary contributions to the United Nations Action Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which fosters joint action across the spectrum of United Nations entities and encourages transparency, cooperation and "Delivering as one". The key review recommendations will inform United Nations Action policy and practice moving forward.

83. As the basis for evidence-based action on sexual violence, the United Nations system continues to implement the monitoring and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, as mandated by Security Council resolution 1960 (2010). That work takes account of ongoing operational and field-level coordination, including the protection cluster and gender-based violence subcluster arrangements, the working groups on the protection of civilians and the monitoring and reporting mechanisms on grave violations against children. The United Nations Action network is also developing a guidance note on the intersections between the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements and the Gender-based Violence Information Management System, with a view to improving the way in which data are gathered and reported to the Security Council, while preserving the rights and protection needs of survivors. It should be noted that my "Rights up front" initiative, which aims to ensure that the mandated human rights responsibilities of the Organization are always part and parcel of United Nations peace and security work, will also help to enhance monitoring, the sharing of information and joint analysis throughout the system.

84. Within peacekeeping and special political missions, dedicated capacity in the form of women protection advisers continues to be required to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on sexual violence in conflict. As at December 2013, senior women protection advisers had

been deployed to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali; it is envisaged that additional women protection advisers will be deployed to UNMISS, UNOCI, BINUCA and UNAMID. Women protection advisers have also deployed within human rights and women's empowerment and gender units in those missions. To bolster capacity on the ground, United Nations Action has committed catalytic funding for women protection advisers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire and has contributed to building their capacity. Senior women protection advisers in particular are deployed to provide guidance to mission leadership on conflict-related sexual violence, to engage in dialogue with parties to the conflict, to strengthen prevention and response in collaboration with the United Nations country team and partners, and to lead efforts to implement the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements. Working groups on the arrangements are operational in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan (Darfur) and will be established in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan during 2014. The continued deployment of dedicated expertise in fact-finding missions and independent international commissions of inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council is also a significant aspect of monitoring and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence.

IV. Work of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict

85. The Team of Experts, which was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1888 (2009), continued to assist Governments in building national capacity and expertise in addressing impunity for crimes of sexual violence in conflict. Lack of capacity remains one of the main impediments to ensuring accountability. This leads to widespread impunity, which in turn has a detrimental impact on access to justice, security and the safety of survivors. The Team has focused its efforts on strengthening the capacity of national rule of law and justice actors, including within the specialized areas of criminal investigation and prosecution, collection and preservation of evidence, military justice system investigation and prosecution, criminal and procedural law reform, and protection of victims, witnesses and justice officials. The Team complements and adds value to the work of the United Nations on the ground and enables national authorities to take the lead. It operates under a joint programme developed in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme.

86. In the Central African Republic, following the commitments made by the Government in the joint communiqué on addressing sexual violence of 12 December 2012, the Team of Experts carried out a technical assessment in partnership with UN-Women and the entities responsible for the area of gender-based violence within the Global Protection Cluster. Concrete actions to be taken by the Government and other partners on the ground towards implementation of the commitments were proposed. While the current security situation in the Central African Republic does not allow for the provision of assistance, the Team has received a request from the Government regarding the provision of support to the gendarmerie for the establishment of a specialized unit on sexual violence.

87. In Colombia, notable efforts have been made since my former Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited the country in May 2012. The Team of Experts conducted a mission to build on consultations held during that visit and to discuss concrete modalities of technical assistance, with a particular focus on possible support to the Attorney General's Office, including with regard to the investigation of cases. In addition, at the request of the national authorities, the Team provided inputs for the development of guidelines by the Ministry of Defence on addressing conflict-related sexual violence for the police and the military.

88. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Team of Experts supported an experience-sharing exercise to provide the Ivorian delegation — composed of representatives of relevant ministries, the police, the judiciary, the military and civil society — an opportunity to learn from the experience of Sierra Leone in addressing conflict-related sexual violence across several sectors. Lessons from the exercise have informed the national strategy currently under consideration by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and a number of other governmental initiatives in the country.

89. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Team of Experts, in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has continued to support national authorities by strengthening their capacity to investigate and prosecute in cases of sexual violence crimes committed by FARDC and other security forces in the northern and southern parts of the country. In February 2013, the Team deployed an investigations expert to provide support to the FARDC military justice authorities through prosecutions support cells. The expert assisted with investigations in a number of major incidents, including allegations of sexual violence committed by FARDC soldiers in Minova (South Kivu) and Bweremana (North Kivu) during their withdrawal in the aftermath of Goma's fall to elements of M23 in November 2012. As a result of the investigations, 12 commanders of operational military units were suspended from their duties and 18 soldiers from various units were arrested and detained in Goma central prison. In the future, the Team will focus its efforts on fair trial standards and the safety of survivors in cases involving sexual violence. The investigations expert also supported the military prosecutor in the investigation of other incidents of sexual violence, including incidents in Katindo (Goma) and Kitchanga (Masisi territory). Moreover, the Team helped the Government to assess its needs and capacity to implement the commitments made in the joint communiqué on combating conflict-related sexual violence of 30 March 2013. In July 2013, through a technical workshop, the Team helped the Government to develop a plan for implementing the joint communiqué.

90. In accordance with the joint communiqué signed between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations in November 2011, the Team of Experts continues to assist national authorities in investigating sexual violence crimes and prosecuting alleged perpetrators of such crimes committed in Conakry in September 2009. Since December 2012, a member of the Team based in Conakry has provided advice to the panel of judges that was established by the Government; that has led to an increase in the number of hearings of sexual violence cases: over 200 victims have been heard by the panel since December 2012. The expert's assistance has also led to the indictment of several high-level officials, the indictment and detention of a gendarme specifically on charges of rape in relation to those events, and the commitment from the Government to establish mechanisms for the protection of

survivors. A notable result is the indictment and appearance in court of Colonel Claude Pivi, head of presidential security, and the hearing of General Ibrahima Baldé, Chief of Staff of the gendarmerie. Going forward, the Team will also look into the establishment of systems to protect victims and witnesses and the strengthening of security measures for the panel of judges.

91. In Somalia, the Team of Experts carried out a technical assessment in partnership with UN-Women and the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative of the United Kingdom to help the Government of Somalia develop a plan for the implementation of the commitments it made in the joint communiqué of 7 May 2013 and in line with the Somali Compact.

92. In South Sudan, the Government is considering the findings of the Team's 2012 assessment and the recommendations related to legislative reform priorities and strategies to strengthen national and State-level capacity in the justice sector to address sexual violence. The Team will continue to support the Government in establishing an implementation plan to address the problem.

93. The Team continues to build a roster of experts in coordination with initiatives such as the Justice Rapid Response mechanism and the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative.

V. Recommendations

94. The following recommendations outline critical aspects of a framework for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2106 (2013). The recommendations outline specific actions required at the political and operational levels. The breadth of the recommendations illustrates the comprehensive, multisectoral and multidimensional approach for the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence that has emerged over the past years. In the implementation of such a prevention framework, I continue to emphasize the need for national ownership, leadership and responsibility. The United Nations stands ready to support national authorities in their efforts.

95. I call upon all parties to conflict responsible for or credibly suspected of acts of sexual violence to cease such violations and, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), to make specific and time-bound protection commitments that include: (a) the issuance of clear orders through chains of command and in codes of conduct (or their equivalent) prohibiting sexual violence; (b) the timely investigation of alleged violations in order to hold perpetrators accountable; (c) the immediate identification and release from their ranks of those most vulnerable to sexual violence, especially women and children; (d) the designation of a high-level interlocutor responsible for ensuring the implementation of commitments; and (e) cooperation with and facilitation of access by the United Nations to monitor compliance. Parties to conflict should prepare timely implementation plans on the basis of the above-mentioned commitments.

96. I emphasize our responsibility to the survivors of sexual violence and the need to continue to support the delivery of timely assistance, including non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services (including the full range of sexual and reproductive health services and HIV awareness and response services),

psychosocial, legal, livelihood assistance and other multisectoral services, and to ensure differentiated and appropriate services for children and male survivors.

97. I urge the Security Council to reinforce the key elements of the prevention framework outlined under its resolution 2106 (2013) by:

(a) Supporting United Nations efforts to engage in dialogue with State and non-State parties to elicit commitments to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence and to consistently review compliance with these commitments, including by regularly reviewing joint communiqués concluded with the United Nations and the implementation plans related to those communiqués;

(b) Continuing to emphasize the centrality of civil society, including women's organizations, and community leaders in all prevention and response efforts and by continuing to support their efforts, including through engagement with parties to conflict, to influence them with respect to addressing sexual violence;

(c) Supporting United Nations efforts to build the capacity of civil society groups, including women's organizations and networks, to enhance informal community-level protection mechanisms against conflict-related sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and of journalists and human rights defenders, to report and respond to sexual violence crimes;

(d) Ensuring the deployment of women protection advisers, in line with the agreed operational concept and terms of reference and the provisions of Security Council resolution 2106 (2013), in order to facilitate the full and timely implementation of Council resolutions on sexual violence in conflict and by ensuring that those posts are included in the regular budgets of United Nations missions;

(e) Ensuring that attention is paid to the issue of sexual violence in the work of relevant Security Council sanctions monitoring entities, including through the deployment of qualified experts and of dedicated sexual violence expertise as part of commissions of inquiry and other fact-finding modalities and consistently monitoring progress in that regard;

(f) Ensuring that signed ceasefire and peace agreements contain provisions that, at a minimum, stipulate conflict-related sexual violence as a prohibited act in the definition of ceasefire, particularly in provisions relating to disengagement, and that they detail or annex arrangements for ceasefire monitoring mechanisms that should take into account, among other things: (i) verification of the cessation of conflict-related sexual violence; (ii) monitoring and reporting on incidents, trends and patterns of sexual violence, including the identification of parties credibly suspected of committing or of being responsible for sexual violence; and (iii) the inclusion of male and female observers, as well as of dedicated gender experts, in the monitoring structure. Adequate and timely funding is required for the effective implementation of ceasefire and peace agreements, including provisions related to conflict-related sexual violence;

(g) Ensuring that action to prevent conflict-related sexual violence is explicitly reflected in security sector reform processes, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and in justice reform initiatives,

including as they relate to corrections and police capacity, in line with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 2106 (2013);

(h) Systematically reflecting the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence in all relevant country-specific resolutions and in authorizations and renewals of the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions through the inclusion of the key operational provisions of resolutions 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), in particular the requirement to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, by engaging parties to conflict in a dialogue with a view to gaining commitments, as specified in the above resolutions, and by regularly monitoring progress in that regard. Where possible, monitoring efforts should be combined with service delivery and emphasis should be placed on coordination and information-sharing across peacekeeping, humanitarian, human rights, political and security sectors;

(i) Continuing to encourage and support the training of all United Nations peacekeeping personnel using the innovative tools developed by United Nations Action partners, including *Addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence: an Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice* and the matrix of early-warning indicators, by encouraging troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the number of women recruited and deployed to peacekeeping operations and by encouraging troop- and police-contributing countries to rigorously address allegations of sexual violence and sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers;

(j) Recognizing and addressing the connections between conflict-related sexual violence and the illicit trade in natural resources, as well as illegal activities such as the trafficking in illicit drugs and humans. In that regard, the Security Council may wish to consider the applicability of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols and its relevant legal tools;

(k) Encouraging corporate sector actors to make specific commitments related to the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, including with regard to sourcing materials for their production processes from areas not affected by conflict;

(l) Recognizing that sexual violence is not only a risk faced by displaced persons but also a tactic that has been used to induce displacement and, therefore, by giving due consideration to accepting sexual violence in conflict as a form of persecution that should lead to the recognition of refugee status for the individuals affected;

(m) Continuing to put pressure on perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence, including the individuals, parties and States named in my reports, through the adoption of targeted measures by relevant sanctions committees and by considering, when adopting or renewing targeted sanctions in situations of armed conflict and where appropriate, the inclusion of acts of rape and other serious forms of sexual violence as criteria for designating individuals. Such actions by the Security Council should apply to those who commit, command or condone (by failing to prevent or punish) sexual violence, consistent with the stipulations under international criminal law regarding those bearing direct, command or superior responsibility.

98. I acknowledge the adoption of political commitments to prevent sexual violence in conflict and provide care for survivors by Member States outside the framework of the Security Council, namely the historic declarations adopted by the

Group of Eight countries and by 140 nations on the sidelines of the General Assembly. I urge those Member States to implement the commitments as a matter of priority.

99. Furthermore, in line with my emphasis on fostering national ownership, leadership and responsibility, I urge Member States to draw upon the expertise of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and to support it in strengthening the rule of law and the capacity of civilian and military justice systems, as part of broader efforts to strengthen institutional safeguards against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. I urge donors to ensure sustainable funding for this valuable resource for the countries concerned.

100. Finally, I urge all Member States to support the efforts of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and its Multi-Partner Trust Fund, particularly for the development and implementation of comprehensive national strategies aimed at preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

VI. Annexed list

101. The annex to the present report, based on currently available information, contains a list of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council agenda. The annex does not purport to be a comprehensive list of violators, but includes those on whom credible information is currently available. It should be noted that the annex does not list countries as such. The purpose of the list is to identify particular parties to conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence. In that regard, the names of countries are mentioned only in order to indicate the locations or situations where offending parties are committing the violations in question.

Annex

List of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council

Parties in the Central African Republic

1. Lord's Resistance Army.

2. Ex-Séléka forces.

3. Anti-balaka forces, including associated elements of the armed forces of the Central African Republic.

Parties in Côte d'Ivoire

1. Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire.

2. Ex-militia groups, including the Alliance patriotique de l'ethnie Wé, the Front pour la libération du Grand Ouest, the Mouvement ivoirien de libération de l'ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire and the Union patriotique de résistance du Grand Ouest.

Parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The following armed groups:
   (a) Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain;
   (b) Allied Democratic Forces — National Army for the Liberation of Uganda;
   (c) Forces de défense congolaises;
   (d) Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda;
   (e) Front de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri;
   (f) Lord's Resistance Army;
   (g) Mouvement du 23 mars;
   (h) Mai-Mai Cheka/Nduma Defence for Congo;
   (i) Mai-Mai Kifuafua;
   (j) Mai-Mai Morgan;
   (k) Mai-Mai Simba/Lumumba;
   (l) Nyatura armed group;
   (m) Patriotes résistants congolais;
   (n) Raia Mutomboki.
2. Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo.
3. National police of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Parties in Mali

1. Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad.
2. Ansar Dine.
3. Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa.
4. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb.

Parties in South Sudan

1. Sudan People's Liberation Army.
2. South Sudan national police service.
3. Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition.
4. Lord's Resistance Army.

Parties in the Syrian Arab Republic

1. Government forces, including the Syrian armed forces, the intelligence forces and the shabbiha, a government-affiliated militia.

2. Armed opposition elements operating in contested and opposition-held areas, including Damascus, Rif Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.